

REMARKS:

- 1) New claims 15 to 25 are based on the original claims as follows.

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|------------------|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| New Claims | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| Original Support | Cl.1, 5, 12 | Cl.2 | Cl.3 | Cl.4 | Cl.6 | Cl.7 | Cl.8 | Cl.9 |

| | | | |
|------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| New Claims | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| Original Support | Cl. 10 | Cl. 11 | Cl. 13 |

New claim 15 is a combination of the features of original claim 1, 5 and 12. Claims 5, 12 and 14 have been canceled. New matter is not involved in the amendments of the claims.

- 2) Referring to section 1 on page 2 of the Office Action, the objection to the Declaration as being defective is respectfully traversed. The Declaration filed subsequently to the application filing date satisfies each of conditions (C) and (E) in MPEP 602. Any one of the satisfied conditions (C) or (E) would be sufficient. The Declaration is identified by the attorneys docket number 4535 on the upper right corner of each page of the Declaration. This docket number is also shown in the lower left corner of each page and at the top of page 1 of the present specification and claims as originally filed. Thus, requirement C of MPEP 602 is satisfied. The Declaration is further identified by the Title of the Invention (on page 1 of the Declaration), which also appears on page 1 of the present specification as originally filed. The Declaration was submitted on October 29, 2003 with a cover letter accurately identifying the application by the application number. Thus, requirement E of MPEP 602 is also satisfied. Withdrawal of the objection to the Declaration is respectfully requested.

- 3) The back reference of claim 13 (now claim 25) is now correct due to the inclusion of the hole 5A in new main claim 15, section f), line 3. Withdrawal of this formal rejection of prior claim 13 with respect to new claim 25 is respectfully requested.
- 4) The rejection of claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 5,697,108 (Culbertson, Jr.) is respectfully traversed. Culbertson does not show first and second hinges (H, H'), one for the decontamination chamber (7) and one for the backpack (3), as now defined in independent claim 15. Two separate hinges permit flapping the chamber (7) and the backpack (3) separately or in unison. Please see the present specification page 13, lines 13 to 21. Culbertson cannot anticipate claim 15 and claims 16 to 25 remaining dependent under claim 15, because Culbertson does not disclose two separate hinges, as claimed.
- 5) The rejection of claims 5 to 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Culbertson Jr. taken in the light of US Patent 4,842,224 (Cohen) is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.
- 6) New claim 15 defines a first hinge (H) as originally claimed in claim 5 and a second hinge (H) as originally claimed in claim 12. This permits tilting the decontamination chamber and the backpack either in unison with each other or separately from each other. Putting the pivot mounting 46 of Cohen into the system of Culbertson does not suggest the claimed combination for the following reasons.

- 7) According to column 5 of Cohen the hatch cover 44 is pivotally mounted at 46 to move away (not hinge) from the hatch 40 to allow an astronaut 48 to enter the suit 36 through the open hatch 40 and the PLSS interface. A second hinge for the backpack is not disclosed nor suggested by Cohen. What might appear to be hinges 89 and 88 in Figs. 5B and 5C of Cohen are actually adjustment screws for adjusting the position of the solenoid 84. Please see Fig. 5D and the Cohen specification at column 7 lines 2 to 5.
- 8) Withdrawal of the rejectionsof all claims 1 to 14 is respectfully requested.
- 9) Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, including all present claims 15 to 25, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Applicant

WGF:hc/4535
Enclosures:
Term Extension Request,
Form PTO-2038

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING:

I hereby certify that this correspondence with all indicated enclosures is being deposited with the U. S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail, in an envelope addressed to: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

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